

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on October 25, 2004. Claims 1 – 10 are pending in the present application. Applicants amend claims 1 and 2. No new matter is added. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in Applicants' specification at page 21, line 10 through page 22, line 27.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1 – 10 are currently allowed.

OBJECTED CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 2 are objected to with regard to informalities. With reference for example to claim 1 at page 37, lines 30 – 33 of the specification, the Examiner finds that the limitation "based on the request for transmission of the each intermediate equipment which is written in the token packet of the packet trailer transmitted from the opposite terminal equipment" is unclear. Specifically, the Examiner suggests that it is unclear whether the request is being generated by the intermediate equipment, and what "opposite" terminal equipment refers to.

Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing these objections in more detail with Applicants' representative. Based upon this discussion, and with reference the Applicants' disclosure at page 21, line 10 through page 22, line 27 describing FIGs. 8A – 8C, Applicants amend claims 1 and 2 to eliminate the term "opposite", and to make clear which cited terminal equipment or intermediate equipment is associated with each cited request for transmission.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1 and 2 are not unclear, and request that the objection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that 1 - 10, which include independent claims 1 and 2, and the claims that depend therefrom, stand in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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Docket No.: 100794-11714 (FUJA 18.522)